

## **COLUMBIA CITY PARKING ACTION STRATEGY**

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### **GOAL #1: INCREASE ON-STREET PARKING – S HUDSON STREET**

“Create new on-street parking spaces for businesses in the downtown area, for residents, and for library patrons,” and under strategy d: “Investigate possible improvements to S Hudson east of Rainier Avenue S to improve pedestrian access on the south side of this block where back-in angled parking exists and intrudes into the pedestrian ‘desire line’.” – *Columbia City Parking Action Strategy*

#### **BACKGROUND**

In 2002 the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) convened a Columbia City Parking Workgroup as part of the Making the Parking System Work program. The Kick-Off of this program in Columbia City, and the presentation of the workgroup’s recommendations at the March 15, 2003, annual Columbia City Revitalization Committee’s Town Hall meeting, were well advertised through post card mailings, notices circulated on community e-mail lists, and presentations to meetings of community organizations such as the Columbia City Revitalization Committee and Columbia City Business Association. The workgroup is comprised of representatives from the Columbia City Revitalization Committee, the Columbia City Business Association, the Columbia City branch of the Seattle Public Library, and area residents.

Among the workgroup’s recommendations was the goal of improving pedestrian access on the south side of S Hudson immediately east of Rainier Avenue S. On Tuesday, November 25, 2003, Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) staff (John Marek, Charles Bookman, and Randy Wiger) conducted a field check of the southern side of S Hudson, between Rainier Avenue S and 39<sup>th</sup> Avenue S (the 3800 block), to survey conditions of pedestrian access. The south side of this block has front-in angle parking, and the north side has no parking. This block of S Hudson slopes up to the east from Rainier Avenue S towards 39<sup>th</sup> Avenue S. Nearby streets all have curbs and sidewalks, as does the north side of this block.

The sidewalk and curb on the Rainier Avenue S wraps around onto the south side of S Hudson for approximately 10 feet (until the end of the crosswalk ramp) at which point the sidewalk ends. Between this tail end of curb and the adjacent building is a strip of grass perhaps 5 feet wide with a visible pedestrian “desire line.” Further north on this block, the pedestrian trail is blocked by the parked cars, and pedestrian traffic is forced into the travel lane.

SDOT staff does not see wheel stops as a viable solution to stop the parked vehicles from blocking the pedestrian trail because of the safety issues and tripping hazard they pose. Staff determined that this block of S Hudson is perhaps wide enough to allow for a curb and sidewalk to be built on the south side. To do so, the existing angle parking would need to be removed. The rebuilt street may possibly allow for parallel parking on both sides, which may come close to, or equal, the number of angle parking spaces lost.

City staff believe this project is eligible for Community Development Block Grant funding available through the Department of Neighborhoods (DON). SDOT has secured funds for preliminary design work (including drainage review). SDOT is currently conducting an internal review which will result in a finalized design. Then the DON will submit this project for Community Development Block Grant funding for the actual construction.

**APRIL 26, 2004 UPDATE**

The design work has been completed and a sketch presented to the community at the April 19, 2004, annual Columbia City Revitalization Committee's Town Hall meeting. The project is now being submitted for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding by the DON. City staff expect sufficient CDBG funding is available for this project, and are optimistic that construction may start later this year.

For information on the funding and construction status of this project, please contact SDOT staff Tony Mazzella at (206) 684-0811 or [Tony.Mazzella@Seattle.gov](mailto:Tony.Mazzella@Seattle.gov).

For more information on the Making the Parking System Work program, contact Randy Wiger at (206) 684-8186 or [Randy.Wiger@Seattle.gov](mailto:Randy.Wiger@Seattle.gov), or visit the program website at <http://www.cityofseattle.net/transportation/neighborhoodparking.htm>.



*Photo 1: Facing east,  
looking along the south  
side of the 3800 block of  
S Hudson St  
(on the east side of  
Rainier Avenue S).*



*Photo 2: Looking south  
across the crosswalk to  
the south side of the  
3800 block of S  
Hudson St  
(on the east side of  
Rainier Avenue S).*